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SAPC-3960 ✓
Copy 2 of 6

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Operations

21 February 1956

SUBJECT

: Admittance to Operations Control Center

1. I have read your memorandum of 16 February on the above subject (SAPC-3854). I agree with your fundamental point that the Control Center must be treated as a Restricted Area even within the Project Headquarters. I also agree that the basic principle which should govern admission to the area is that of a real need to know. I would appreciate if you would follow up with specific recommendations as to the rules to be applied and I request that you develop this recommendation in consultation with the Project Security Officer.

2. I will offer the following suggestions for your consideration and that of the Security Officer.

a. Currently the eligible list should include those senior officers from Administration, Materiel, and the Contracting Officer's staff who will need to do business with members of the Operations Office. I do not think we want to impose an arrangement which will always require Operations personnel to be called out of the area for any kind of consultation. Incidentally, this category should include all individuals who will serve from time to time as duty officers.

b. Over and above the officers from other components of the staff who will have business in the Operations Center, the list should presumably include those members of the Project's clerical staff who will have occasion to work there. This category may extend somewhat beyond the Operations Office itself.

c. In order to avoid a sense of mystery and a feeling of exclusion on the part of unauthorized personnel in the Project Headquarters I suggest at least one (and probably repeated) inspection tour for the purpose of explaining to interested individuals how the Operations Center functions. Such a tour (or tours) could be carried out at a time when no highly sensitive material was on display relating to any particular mission or missions over

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enemy territory. It would I feel serve to satisfy legitimate curiosity and dispell the note that any highly occult activities are carried on in the Control Center and to emphasize that it is specific information about particular missions on particular dates this is so highly sensitive as to require special protection.

(Signature)
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Project Director

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RMB:djm

1-Addressee w/cy 1 of Ref.

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2-RMB Chrono

3-Project Security Offr w/cy 2 of Ref.

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4 [] FU - Route to [] (not [] on leave for week)

5-Project Chrono

6-Project Reading

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